



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

2444 RAYBURN H.O.B
8425 WEST 3rd STREET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90048

202-225-3976
213-651-1040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 1983

Contact: Howard Elinson
Keiko Shimabukuro
(213) 651-1040

WAXMAN TO ATTEND "DANCE FOR FREEDOM"

The District Office of Congressman Henry A. Waxman announced today that the Congressman has made "a firm commitment" to be in Los Angeles on March 12th so that he might personally participate in the "Dance for Freedom".

The "Dance for Freedom" is a major city-wide event being organized to focus attention on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Sponsors of the Dance feel a special sense of urgency in view of recent emigration figures released by the Soviet government.

According to official sources, 81 exit visas were issued to Jews in January 1983, and approximately 70 in February. These are the lowest monthly figures ever reported since emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union began more than a decade ago.

Congressman Waxman urged strong community support for the "Dance for Freedom".

"This is one of the most important events ever held in our community. It comes at a time when tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are beginning to lose hope that they will ever be free to settle in Israel or the United States."

"It is most urgent that the Los Angeles Jewish community--the second largest in the United States--mobilize for Soviet Jews. Both the Soviet government and Jews living in the U.S.S.R. must realize that our concern for Soviet Jewry is not a fad which will pass. They must know that it is a profound moral commitment which will not be shaken by changing Soviet policy."

The Dance for Freedom is sponsored by a broad coalition of community groups including synagogues, temples, college Hillel groups, and local Zionist and women's organizations.

###